

Attorney Docket No.: DMBC-0007
Inventors: Harry C. Morris
Serial No.: 10/840,052
Filing Date: May 6, 2004
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1-2: (canceled)

Claim 3: (currently amended) The friction resistant coater or doctor blade of claim 1 + claim 10 wherein the protective layer comprises low phosphorous electroless nickel.

Claim 4: (currently amended) The friction resistant coater or doctor blade of claim 1 + claim 10 wherein the protective layer is between 0.0002 to 0.0009 inches thick.

Claim 5: (currently amended) The friction resistant coater or doctor blade of claim 1 + claim 10 wherein the blade-shaped substrate base comprises carbon strip steel, stainless steel, stainless alloy, or bronze or monel.

Claim 6: (currently amended) The friction resistant coater or doctor blade of claim 1 + claim 10 wherein the edge is beveled.

Claim 7: (currently amended) The friction resistant coater or doctor blade of claim 1 + claim 10 wherein the edge is square.

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Claim 8: (currently amended) A method of producing a friction resistant coater or doctor blade for applying inks and coatings to paper and packaging comprising:

applying a protective layer to an edge of a blade-shaped substrate base; and

heat treating said protective ~~e~~layer on the blade-shaped substrate for an amount of time suitable to provide a Rockwell C hardness measurement of greater than 70 to said protective layer ~~wherein said protective layer is applied to areas of the blade-shaped substrate which contact coatings.~~

Claim 9: (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the protective layer comprises low phosphorous electroless nickel.

Claim 10: (new) A friction resistant coater or doctor blade for applying inks and coatings to paper and packaging comprising a blade-shaped substrate base with an edge which allows coating or ink to be evenly applied to paper or board and a protective layer applied to at least the edge of said blade-shaped substrate, said protective layer heat treated after application to at least the edge of the blade-shaped substrate base to provide a Rockwell C hardness of greater than 70.